

SOVIET MILITARY AID TO CUBA

The recent Soviet shipments to Cuba of arms and technicians indicate a significant increase in the Soviet involvement in Cuba. The Soviet Union has provided Cuba with anti-aircraft defensive missiles with a range of 25 miles, similar to early models of our Nike; extensive radar and other electronic equipment required for the operation of these missiles; Soviet-made motor torpedo boats carrying ship-to-ship guided missiles with a range of 15 miles; surface-to-ship cruise missile sites; MIG-21 aircraft; and approximately 4,000 Soviet military technicians, already in Cuba or en route, consistent with assistance in setting up and learning to use this equipment. This aid will increase the defense capacity of the Cuban regime and the effectiveness of Cuban military forces for possible internal use.

This is all the information which has been obtained and properly verified up to the present. More information will be made available to the American people as fast as it becomes known.

Sino-Soviet bloc military aid to Cuba started in the autumn of 1960, and as of the beginning of 1962 aid in the form of equipment and technical services amounted to about \$100 million. This aid had by then already turned the Cuban military establishment into one of the most formidable in Latin America. The ground forces numbered about 300,000, and Cuba possessed MIG jet fighters, medium and heavy tanks, field and anti-aircraft artillery, patrol vessels and motor torpedo boats, and about 200,000 small arms.

There is no evidence, however, of any organized combat force in Cuba from any Soviet bloc country; of military bases provided to Russia; of a violation of the 1934 treaty relating to Guantanamo; of the presence of offensive ground-to-ground missiles; or of other significant offensive capability either in Cuban hands or under Soviet direction and guidance. Nor is there evidence that the build-up endangers or interferes with our passage to the Panama Canal; that missile and space activities in Cape Canaveral; the lives of American citizens in this country, or our security in any other way.

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